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UNCLAS ANKARA 004481

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/NGA, EUR/SE AND PRM/ANE
DEPT PASS TO USAID FOR OFDA
BAGHDAD FOR IRAQI ASSISTANCE CENTER

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID PREL TU IZ

SUBJECT: Humanitarian Assistance Update: UN and Energy
Shipments Flowing but New Restriction on U.S. Citizen
Crossings

Ref: Ankara 4251

¶1. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

Summary:

¶2. The World Food Program, Kellogg, Brown and Root, and Delta Petroleum advise that food and fuel supplies continue to flow across the Habur border crossing into Iraq. Noting good cooperation with the GOT, WFP reports that Turkey is still the leading source of food procurements and still an important transit corridor for shipments to Iraq. However, following the July 4 incident in Iraq, the MFA has instituted a diplomatic note requirement for U.S. citizens seeking entry into Iraq from Turkey. End Summary.

World Food Program

¶3. (U) Mission Disaster Relief Officer (MDRO) and Environmental Specialist called on Taieb Essayem, the World Food Program's Emergency Coordinator in Ankara, on July 16 to discuss WFP shipments to Iraq. Essayem told us that, through July 3, WFP has delivered 1.2 million tons of food to Iraq through neighboring countries. Of this, 450,000 tons have been sent through Turkey, which remains the largest aid corridor in tonnage terms. Essayem stated that food transport is slowing down now that WFP is procuring food in Iraq. Other aid corridors are increasing in relative importance given that northern Iraq's warehouses are relatively full. Turkey remains a leading supplier to the organization as well, with USD 55.6 million (125,000 tons) of food bought in Turkey in 2003. Spending on transport, milling and other expenses brings the total spent in Turkey to USD 95 million.

¶4. (SBU) Essayem emphasized that the GOT has been very cooperative in this operation, and noted that the WFP and the GOT signed an agreement giving WFP diplomatic status during the week of July 7. He reported that the Habur crossing is now open 24 hours daily. However, local authorities on the Iraqi side are charging WFP fees of USD 5 for each 100 liters of fuel that truckers bring with them on their return to Turkey and charges WFP a fee of USD 20 per entering truck.

Fuel Aid and Trade

¶5. (SBU) Energy supplies continue to flow to Iraq from Turkey. Delta Petroleum, a Turkish company which has entered in an energy barter arrangement with SOMO, the Iraqi state oil company, told us on July 15 that it has transported 19,668 tons of gasoline and 6,658 tons of liquid petroleum gas from Turkey to Iraq. It has also moved 34,996 tons of fuel oil in the opposite direction. Kellogg, Brown and Root Operations Manager Kurt Meyer told us that KBR has bought 220 million liters of benzine and 42,000 metric tons of LPG in Turkey for Iraq (valued at USD 90 million) to date. Meyer confirmed that Habur is now open on a 24-hour basis.

Diplomatic Note Now Required

¶ 6. (SBU) MFA advised us on July 16 that it would now require a diplomatic note from the Embassy for all U.S. citizens crossing into Iraq, including USG contractors and private citizens. KBR advised that they were unaware of the change in policy. A U.S. military officer from the Incirlik base was turned back at the Habur crossing July 16.

Pearson